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APPLICATION NO.	FI	LING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,409 06/2		06/27/2005	Robert James Laing	GH-PAK-0001	2836
47649	7590	10/06/2006		EXAMINER	
. KENNETI		,	- HUYNH, LOUIS K		
136 SUMM GAITHERS		· -		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
<del></del>	,			3721	
				DATE MAILED, 10/06/200	•

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)	
		10/516,409	LAING ET AL.	
0	ffice Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
		Louis K. Huynh	3721	
The Period for Rep		ation appears on the cover sheet w	th the correspondence addr	ess
WHICHEVI - Extensions o after SIX (6) - If NO period - Failure to rep Any reply rec	ER IS LONGER, FROM THE MA f time may be available under the provisions of MONTHS from the mailing date of this commur for reply is specified above, the maximum statu bly within the set or extended period for reply wi	R REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNION 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a relication. It is priced will apply and will expire SIX (6) MON III, by statute, cause the application to become AB are the mailing date of this communication, even if	CATION.  eply be timely filed  THS from the mailing date of this command the common standard (35 U.S.C. § 133).	
Status				
1)⊠ Resp	onsive to communication(s) filed	on <u>27 June 2005</u> .		
· ·		) This action is non-final.		
3)☐ Since	e this application is in condition fo	or allowance except for formal matte e under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D		nerits is
Disposition of	Claims			
4a) O 5) ☐ Clain 6) ☐ Clain 7) ☐ Clain	n(s) 1-111 is/are pending in the a f the above claim(s) is/are n(s) is/are allowed. n(s) is/are rejected. n(s) is/are objected to. n(s) 1-111 are subject to restriction	withdrawn from consideration.		
Application Pa	apers			
	pecification is objected to by the			
		a) accepted or b) objected to		
• •		on to the drawing(s) be held in abeyar		
	• ,,	ne correction is required if the drawing by the Examiner. Note the attached	, , ,	
Priority under	35 U.S.C. § 119			
a)	b) Some * c) None of: Certified copies of the priority do Certified copies of the priority do Copies of the certified copies of application from the International	ocuments have been received in A the priority documents have been	pplication No received in this National St	age
Attachment(s)				
2) Notice of Dra 3) Information I	eferences Cited (PTO-892) aftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) //Mail Date	O-948) Paper No(s	ummary (PTO-413) s)/Mail Date nformal Patent Application 	

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

## Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

- 2. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.
- 3. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.
  - Group I, claim(s) 1-7, drawn to a flexible pouch.
  - Group II, claim(s) 8-22, drawn to a container.
  - Group III, claim(s) 23-27, drawn to a pallet.
  - Group IV, claim(s) 28-52, drawn to a packaging system.
  - Group V, claim(s) 53-59, drawn to a method of maneuvering pouches.
  - Group VI, claim(s) 6072, drawn to a system for handling containers.
  - Group VII, claim(s) 73-92, drawn to a pallet handling apparatus.
  - Group VIII, claim(s) 93-99, drawn to a filling and heat sealing apparatus.
  - Group IX, claim(s) 100-106, drawn to a seal integrity monitoring system.
  - Group X, claim(s) 107-111, drawn to a method for inspecting a seal.
- 4. The inventions listed as Groups I-X do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

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 Group I does not need the special technical feature of the open bottom as required in group II; and group II does not need the special technical feature of the closed base as required in group I.

- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the plurality of locators as
  required in group III; and group III does not need the special technical feature of the
  transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the transporter as required in group IV; and group IV does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of stackable containers as required in group V; and group V does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of a camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the front and rear panels of the pouch being jointed along opposite side edges as required in group I.

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• Group I does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the front and rear panels of the pouch being jointed along opposite side edges as required in group I.

- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the front and rear panels of the pouch being jointed along opposite side edges as required in group I.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the pallet body as required in group III; and group III does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of transporter as required in group IV; and group IV does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the transporter as required in group V; and group V does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.

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 Group II does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.

- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the transporter as required in group IV; and group IV does not need the special technical feature of pallet body as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of transporter as required in group V; and group V does not need the special technical feature of pallet body as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the locator elements as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the locator elements as required in group III.

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 Group III does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the locator elements as required in group III.

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- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the locators as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the locators as required in group III.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of either the ancillary processing station or the packaging station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the first and second carriages
  as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of
  the ancillary processing station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying pallets as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the ancillary processing station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the packaging station as required in group IV.

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• Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the packaging station as required in group IV.

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- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the packaging station as required in group IV.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the carriage as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the filling and heat sealing means as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying
  pallets as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical
  feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.

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Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors for conveying
pallets as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical
feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.

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- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VII does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying the pallets as required in group VII.
- Group VII does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying the pallets as required in group VII.
- Group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the translucent region on
  one side of the pouch as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special
  technical feature of the moving means as required in group VIII.

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• Group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the translucent region on one side of the pouch as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the moving means as required in group VIII.

- Group X does not need the special technical feature of the light source as required in group IX because the transparent region on the pouch of group X can be irradiated with other energy sources such as microwave, for example.
- 5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.
- 6. The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.
- 7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.
- 8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the

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currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

- 9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.
- 10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
- 11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Louis K. Huynh Primary Examiner Art Unit 3721

September 29, 2006